

BUDGET PRIMER

Budget process

Every two years the City develops its biennial budget. The next two year cycle is for 2007-2008. In Redmond's form of government, the Mayor develops the budget that she then presents to the Council for discussion and action. To develop her budget, Mayor Ives meets with senior staff and listens to residents through emails, conversations and a statistically valid survey to learn what is important. She then incorporates that information into her budget, balancing needs and revenues.

The Mayor then presents her budget to Councilmembers in early October and they deliberate through October and November. During that time, there are many more opportunities for residents to make their opinions known to the Council and Mayor. The Council then adopts a balanced budget for 2007-2008 by the first week in December.

Background information

Both the City Council and the Finance department have posted on the City's website a great deal of background information about the budget and related financial topics. Financial and budget discussions have been occurring with some regularity over the last three years.

To locate Council information go to www.redmond.gov, and under the Quick Links pull-down menu on the homepage, click on Council Issues.

To locate Finance department information go to www.redmond.gov, and under the Quick Links pull-down menu on the homepage, click on Finance Issues.

Budget Calendar

(Subject to change. Check Finance Issues on www.redmond.gov for most current info.)

Oct. 3 – Mayor presents 2007-08 budget to City Council
Oct. 17 – Public hearing on budget
Nov. 14 – Public hearing on budget
Nov. 21 or 28 – Council adopts budget
Dec. 5 – Council adopts 2007 property tax levy

Council business meetings are at 7:30 pm on the first and third Tuesdays of every month. Residents can speak to the Council directly on any topic at the beginning of each meeting.

In October and November, the Council will also be talking about budget issues during their study sessions on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month. While residents cannot address the Council directly at these meetings, they are encouraged to attend or watch them on RCTV 21.



What does it cost?

In 2000, the estimated costs of a variety of items the City needs to do its work were listed in Focus magazine. That list has been duplicated below with the 2000 cost and the 2006 cost side by side. Take a look and see if you would have guessed correctly!

Item	2006	2000
Aerial ladder fire truck	\$960,000	\$650,000
New traffic signal	\$300,000	\$210,000
Traffic sign (materials only)	\$250	\$150
Raised pavement marker (traffic button)	\$3 each	\$1 each
Arrest, transport and overnight stay in jail for suspect under arrest	\$435	\$250
Park picnic table	\$650	\$550
Bleachers for softball fields	\$7,000	\$6,000
Neighborhood park playground equipment (installed)	\$75,000 to \$200,000	\$35,000 to \$60,000
Street flower pot program (annually)	\$20,000	n/a
One issue of Focus (printing & mailing)	65 cents	52 cents

Special citizen opportunities

As of the fall Focus printing, the dates had not yet been set for special citizen meetings to talk about the budget with City officials. Watch for future notices about these upcoming events.